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**NLIU - SINGHANIA & PARTNERS
NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING
COMPETITION, 2024**

18- 20 OCTOBER, 2024

RULE BOOK





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1. PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

Interviewing and advising the client constitutes a vital part of a lawyer’s work. Good conversation skills, including counselling ability, form a valuable part of a lawyer’s skill set. It is often assumed that lawyers possess the listening and questioning skills requisite to conduct an effective interview with a client. Unfortunately, however, this is not true of every lawyer. Thus, through this Competition, it is intended to inculcate among students of law, a greater knowledge of counselling functions of law practice and to imbibe in them a spirit of enquiry into the preventive law. The Competition also encourages and helps the students of law to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills necessary to build and maintain a healthy professional relationship between a lawyer and their client.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 “**MCA, NLIU**” Moot Court Association, National Law Institute University Bhopal. The MCA is the organizing and administrating body for the Competition.
- 2.2 “**Competition**” – 6th NLIU - Singhania & Partners National Client Counselling Competition.
- 2.3 “**Participant**”– Any individual eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.4 “**Team**” – Any team comprising of not more than two participants, eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.5 “**Undergraduate student of law**” – Any student enrolled in an undergraduate, dual-degree (5 years) course of law at a college and/or university recognized by the University Grants Commission.
- 2.6 “**Professional student of law**” – Any student enrolled in a professional (3 years) course of law at a college and/or university recognized by the University Grants Commission.
- 2.7 “**Lawyer**”– A person who practices law, such as an attorney, or a solicitor, or a legal practitioner.
- 2.8 “**Country of residence**” – For the sake of this Competition, any and every client’s country of residence shall be as mentioned in the office memo of or a particular round.



- 2.9 “**Client**” – A person or organization, as assigned by the MCA, NLIU in accordance with the office memo for a particular round, seeking and/or receiving these services of a lawyer(s), as defined in 2.7.
- 2.10 “**Office memo**” – A sheet of correspondence briefly describing the client(s) and /or his or her problem(s) for which she/he seeks the services of a lawyer(s).

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Undergraduate and Professional students of law may participate in the Competition.

4. REGISTRATION

- 4.1 The competition will be limited to a total of 20 teams and the maximum number of teams in the competition may be increased subject to the discretion of the MCA. The participation shall be on a first-come, first-serve basis wherein the earliest 20 teams registering shall be allowed to participate.
- 4.2 By registering for and/or entering this Competition, all participants agree to be bound by the rules contained herein.
- 4.3 Not more than one team from any particular institution of law shall be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 4.4 The interested universities and colleges must register on or before 15th September, 2024 by filling the registration form given [here](#).
- 4.5 The registration fee for the competition is INR 10,000. The details regarding the final registration will be shared in due course with the universities provisionally registered for the competition. The registration fees, once submitted, shall not be refunded under any circumstance.

5. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Competition shall be English. All written and/or oral submissions made to and/or before the judges shall be in English.

6. NATURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 6.1 The Competition shall simulate a client’s interaction with the lawyers to be conducted in physical mode at the NLIU campus.
- 6.2 The dates of the competition shall be from 18th October, 2024 to 20th October, 2024.
- 6.3 Each round shall be divided broadly into two segments, i.e. (a) client-consultation session and (b) post-consultation session.
- 6.3.1 In the client-consultation session, Participants shall be expected to extract fact-information from the client, briefly analyse the issue(s) at hand, and make recommendations to the client in order to resolve his or her problem.
- 6.3.2 In the post-consultation session, the Participants shall be expected to legally analyse the interview and the various issues of the matter (or case) present, and discuss a future course of action. They shall further be expected to discuss the recommendations made by them to the client and whether an alternative approach could be or has been adopted to attain a better outcome from the session. The judges may, during this period, question the participants on their presentation.
- 6.4 It is clarified here that the Participants may tender legal advice to their client(s) with reference only to the laws prevailing in the country of his or her residence.
- 6.5 Participants are advised to keep in mind professional rules of ethics and conduct, as are applicable to lawyers, and act in accordance with them during rounds. All participants, regardless of the country of their residence, shall be deemed subject to the rules and regulations as issued by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act, 1961, or any other regulatory body.

7. ROUNDS

- 7.1 The Competition shall consist of two preliminary rounds following which, the top four teams from across the five pools shall advance to the semi-final rounds on the basis of their normalised scores in the preliminary rounds.
- 7.2 Two teams with the highest absolute score shall qualify from the semi-final rounds to the final round.



- 7.3 The winner of the final round, decided based on the highest absolute score in the final round, shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.
- 7.4 The counsel with the highest individual score at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds shall be declared as the Best Counsel of the Competition.
- 7.5 *Provided that*, any dispute arising out of such rounds shall be resolved by the MCA, NLIU. The decision of the MCA, NLIU shall be final in such regard.

8. TIME LIMITS

The Client-Consultation Sessions shall be of the following lengths respectively-

Preliminary Rounds: 20 minutes

Semi-Final Rounds: 30 minutes

Final Round: 40 minutes

In each round, other than the Final Round, teams shall have not more than 5 minutes for the Post-Consultation Session. In the Final Rounds, 10 minutes shall be provided for the same.

9. USE OF EXTERNAL EQUIPMENTS

Participants are expected not to bring any props or office furnishings of the kind, for usage during the rounds. There shall be no marking done based on such extra-offerings.

Provided that, this shall not be construed as a prohibition against bringing books or any other relevant materials into the room.

10. COMPETITION TOPICS

The broad area of law, for all the rounds, shall be released hours before the competition, which may be Law of Contracts, Sale of Goods Act, Constitutional Law, Law of Crimes, Law of Torts, Consumer Protection Act, Family Laws, Negotiable Instruments Act, Intellectual Property Rights, Information Technology Act, Motor Vehicles Act, RERA. It shall be in the form of an Office Memo written by the Office Secretary for the concerned lawyers.

11. RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

- 11.1 For the purpose of the competition, all the teams shall be divided into 5 pools- Pool A, Pool B, Pool C, Pool D, and Pool E by the MCA.
- 11.2 Each team in each Pool shall compete in two preliminary rounds in two different rooms.
- 11.3 The match-ups shall be released on the basis of team codes.
- 11.4 The breaks shall be decided on the basis of absolute scores, i.e., the top four teams shall qualify.
- 11.5 In the event of a tie of scores between two teams, the same shall be resolved on the basis of –
- First*, the aggregate points of the problem analysis, followed by the client’s goals and expectations (in case the aggregate points in the problem analysis are the same), followed by obtaining information (in case the aggregate points in the client’s goals and expectations are the same); and
- Second*, on the basis of a coin (unbiased) toss, if and only if the tie is not resolved by the above-mentioned method.
- 11.6 The match-ups of the semi-final rounds shall be on the basis of power match-ups.

12. ADJUDICATION OF ROUNDS

Each participant shall be marked out of a maximum of 100 marks by each judge and every participant shall be judged for his/her performance(s) based on the following criteria:(*Each criterion will be marked out of 10*)

- (a) Creating a professional environment, comforting the client, showing mannerisms.
- (b) Extraction of information from the client – necessary facts, timelines, etc.
- (c) Understanding Client’s expectations and choices.
- (d) Responses to client’s queries, if any, and analysing the situation from a legal point of view.
- (e) Tendering advice to the client.
- (f) Developing and laying down the course of actions (step-plan) in a clear manner.
- (g) Conclusion of the interview/consultation session.
- (h) Teamwork, coordination, and ethics.



- (i) Ability to respond to questions on facts, the relevancy of facts, responses to queries, method of ethics, and professionalism showcased.

13. ABILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON LAW, THE LEGAL COURSE OF ACTION TO BE ADOPTED, THE RELEVANT LAW(S), PROVISIONS AND PRINCIPLES RELATED TO THE LAW(S) INVOLVED. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS

- 13.1 The MCA, NLIU reserves the right to disqualify any team or participant for any kind of misconduct on the part of any team member(s) or coach during the Competition. In case of any doubt/dispute, the decision of the MCA, NLIU shall be final.
- 13.2 Misconduct includes:
- 13.2.1 Disclosure of identity to other Participants during the course of the round(s) or disclosure of the institution's details to any judge;
 - 13.2.2 Any attempt made by Participant(s) to obtain problem particulars with regard to the Client-Consultation Session;
 - 13.2.3 Any attempt made by Participant(s) to contact any judge before or during the Competition, unless specifically invited to do so by that particular judge(s).
 - 13.2.4 Any other conduct that may give a team(s) an unfair advantage over another team(s).

14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All grievances/disputes shall be addressed to either or both the Joint Convernors of the MCA, NLIU. The body's decision in this regard shall be final.

15. POWER TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES

The MCA, NLIU reserves the right to add, modify, or repeal any rule in order to give effect to the purpose of the Competition.

16. DRESS CODE

All participants shall be in formal wear for the duration of the Competition.



17. COMPETITION AWARDS

Every Participant shall be awarded with a Certificate of Participation. However, the best-performing team(s) shall be awarded in the following manner –

Winners: Certificates along with a cash prize of ₹20,000/ and internship with Singhania & Partners LLP.

Runners-up: Certificates along with a cash prize of ₹10,000/-.

Best Counsel: Certificate of merit.

18. RESIDUARY

The MCA, NLIU may take such other measures as may be required for the purposes of giving effect to any oral provisions of these rules and for the fair conduct of the Competition.